

Confirmation 2010

Sponsor  
Handbook



## **Confirmation Retreat Themes and Topics:**

### **Reconciliation & Forgiveness**

#### Objectives:

- To explore with the candidates the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the importance of forgiveness
- To help the candidates examine the value of Reconciliation and forgiveness
- To guide the candidates toward not only accepting forgiveness, but forgiving others as well

#### For Reflection: Read Luke 15:11-32 and Answer the following questions:

1. Which word or phrase from the passage stood out as you read the scripture passage?
2. What character in the story did you most identify with? Why?
3. Of all the things the son did wrong, what would have been the most difficult for you to forgive if you were the father? If you were the older brother?
4. How do I participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? How do I forgive others in my life?

#### For Discussion:

1. What keeps most people from asking for forgiveness? Or from offering forgiveness to people who have wronged them? What keeps me from asking for forgiveness or from offering forgiveness to those who have wronged me?

### **Christian Service & Social Justice**

#### Objectives:

- To encourage the candidates to develop a personal understanding of justice rooted in faith
- To provide the candidates with an understanding that justice requires their thoughtful action
- To help the candidates value the Scriptures and prayer as sources of power and inspiration for social action
- To invite the candidates to become aware of and appreciate Catholic social teaching as a guide for social action

For Reflection:

1. What is one specific, concrete action I can take this week that will help me live as a peacemaker who brings a measure of God's peace into someone's life?
  
2. What social justice causes have I taken a stance on throughout my own faith journey?

For Discussion:

1. What has been our experience of sharing the Good News with others?

## Session One: Sacraments

### Objectives:

- To help the candidates understand the effects of the seven sacraments and each sacrament's relationship to the candidate's faith journey
- To explore with the candidates the multiple levels of meaning of the symbols and rituals in each sacrament

### For Reflection:

1. What does being a baptized member of the Church mean to me?
  
2. How might I see my ministry as sponsor as a way to prepare to renew and recommit myself to my baptismal promises?
  
3. How am I witnessing to living my baptismal promises at home, at my parish, and in my community?
  
4. In what ways do I think I could improve the way I take part in the Mass so that my participation is full, conscious, and active?

### For Discussion:

1. What have we learned from our experiences about how to make choices to live as disciples of Christ?

## Session Two: Eucharist/Mass

### Objectives:

- To help the candidates grow in their understanding and appreciation of the Mass.
- To explore with candidates how the Eucharist fits into their everyday lives.

### For Reflection:

1. Do you attend Mass on a regular basis? If not, why not? If so, what do you get out of regular Mass attendance?
2. What role does the Eucharist play in your life? Do you wish the role were larger?
3. Think of ways to make the Mass more meaningful in your life and the life of your family.

### For Discussion:

1. How does the Eucharist or Mass feed us in our everyday lives? Why is it so important to attend Mass regularly for Catholics?



## Session Four: Saints

### Objectives:

- To explore with the candidates the process of canonization
- To help the candidates examine and realize the importance of saints in our lives and on our faith journey
- To guide the candidates toward an appreciation of the role of saints as it relates to Confirmation

### For Reflection:

1. What role do the saints play in my faith life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What was my Confirmation name and why did I choose it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How often do I call upon the saints to pray for me and my loved ones?

### For Discussion:

1. What has been our experience of the connection between saints and our own faith journeys? How can we draw on their examples in our own faith lives?

## **Session Five: Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

### Objectives:

- To deepen the candidates' understanding of and appreciation for the activity of the Holy Spirit
- To familiarize the candidates with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
- To help the candidates explore the connections between the work of the Spirit and the sacrament of Confirmation

### For Reflection:

1. How can I witness the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe) in my own life?
2. How, through my everyday actions, do I live as an anointed one (a Christian) sharing the mission of Jesus?
3. What are some of the ways that I am witnessing to my anointing at home, at my parish, and in the community?

### For Discussion:

1. How have the Gifts of the Holy Spirit strengthened us to be witnesses for Christ?

## Session Six: Creed/"We Believe"

### Objectives:

- Candidates should be able to define "creed."
- To explore the depths of meaning in the lines of the Apostles' Creed.

### For Reflection:

1. What does creed mean to you? Do you have a personal creed that you live by?
  
2. Does reciting the Creed at Mass have any special meaning to you? How do you treat this recitation?
  
3. At Mass we recite the Creed, how comfortable would you be expressing your faith beliefs to someone who did not believe in Jesus?

### For Discussion:

1. At Mass, do you really pay attention to what you are saying as you recite the Creed? If not, why not? Is it important to pay attention each time you say it?

## Session Seven: Living out the Catholic Faith

### Objectives:

- To explore the responsibility of Catholics to the Parish and Community
- To help the candidates examine the ways to live out the Catholic Faith\
- To guide the candidates toward a plan of living out their own Catholic Faith once they are Confirmed

### For Reflection:

1. Create a Life Map of your own life and mark the points when you felt God's presence the most in your life. If you don't know what a life map is, have your candidate explain it to you and share his or her life map with you.
  
2. Do I believe that Catholics have a responsibility to their families, parishes, and communities?
  
3. How do I live out my Catholic Faith in my home? In my community? In my parish?
  
4. In what ways do I think I could improve the way I live out my Catholic faith?

### For Discussion:

1. Have your candidate share their plan with you and share yours with him or her.

## **Confirmation: Sealed with the Holy Spirit**

### Objectives:

- To explore with the candidates the symbols of oil and the ritual gesture of the laying on of hands and their meanings in the sacrament of Confirmation
- To deepen the candidates' understanding of and appreciation for the activity of the Holy Spirit
- To familiarize the candidates with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
- To help the candidates explore the connections between the work of the Spirit and the sacrament of Confirmation
- To provide the candidates with an overview of the rite of Confirmation
- To explore with the candidates the various scriptures for the rite of Confirmation
- To review with the candidates the ritual words and gestures of the rite

### For Reflection:

1. How can I witness the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe) in my own life?
2. How, through my everyday actions, do I live as an anointed one (a Christian) sharing the mission of Jesus?
3. What are some of the ways that I am witnessing to my anointing at home, at my parish, and in the community?
4. How is the experience of the Rite of Confirmation different for me as a sponsor?
5. What was significant about the Rite of Confirmation for me when I was Confirmed?

### For Discussion:

1. How have the Gifts of the Holy Spirit strengthened us to be witnesses for Christ?
2. What is significant for us in the ritual words and gestures of the Rite of Confirmation?

Prayer  
by Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road

though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost

and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave

me to face my perils alone.

## Important Dates

**January 17:** Session 1: Sacraments & Sponsor Meeting

**January 24:** Session 2: Eucharist/Mass

**January 31:** Session 3: Liturgical Year and Holy Days of Obligation

**February 21:** Session 4: Saints & Prayer

**March 3:** **Matthew Kelly, Parish Lenten Guest Speaker**

**March 7:** *Confirmation Names Due* & Session 5: Gifts of the Holy Spirit

**March 14:** Session 6: Creed/"We Believe"

**March 18:** **Parish-Wide Penance Service**

**March 21:** Session 7: Living Out the Catholic Faith

**March 28:** Session 8: Confirmation Rite & Interviews

**April 18:** **Confirmation Rehearsal (3 pm) and Confirmation (4:30 pm)**